

MINUTES OF THE
JOINT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Monday, February 3, 2003, 2:00 p.m.
Room 131 State Capitol

Members Present: Sen. David H. Steele, Committee Co-Chair
Rep. Jack A. Seitz, Committee Co-Chair
Sen. Paula Julander
Rep. J. Stuart Adams
Rep. Calvin G. Bird
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Rebecca Lockhart
Rep. Roz McGee
Rep. Mike Thompson

Members Excused: Sen. Leonard Blackham

Staff Present: Spencer C. Pratt, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Thor Nilsen, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Norda Shepard, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Edith Christensen, Volunteer Foster Grandparent
Shirley Bayer, Volunteer Foster Grandparent
Pat Marinoni, Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Bill Chilson, Chief of Police, Clinton, Utah
Vicky Morey, Adult Day Care Provider
Sterling Patten
Ted Bachman
Joyce Dalcourt, Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities
Sharon Neilson
Connie Skoon
Lisa Stamps
Dee Dorsett
Ann Smith, Chairman, State Board of Aging and Adult Services
Patrick Fleming, Director, Salt Lake County Substance Abuse Services
Jodi Gelino
Bob Porter
Frank Terezo, Volunteer, County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
Valerie Fritz, President, Utah Alcoholism Foundation
Kerry Steadman, Utah County Commissioner
Steve White, Utah County Commissioner
Judy Kasten Bell, Administrator, Utah Domestic Violence Advisory Council
Richard Anderson, Director, Division of Child and Family Services
Asha Paren., Director, YWCA Battered Women's Shelter
Cindy Christensen, Director, South Valley Sanctuary
Orla Zabrisky
Tammy Miner, Disabled Rights Administration Committee
Jerry Costly, Project Coordinator, Disabled Rights Administration
Carl Cook
Ann Clyde
Patricia Cook
Joe Paase, Salt Lake Aging Services
Terry Capner
Conrad Lloyd

List of Visitors on File

Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Steele at 2:01 p.m.

Co-Chair Steele stated that the people who spoke and the presentations on Friday for the Department of Health were excellent. He asked that those who have already had the opportunity to speak to let others speak today.

Kathleen Crocker distributed a letter to the committee but did not speak.

Edith Christensen said she was from the Uintah Basin and worked for the Foster Grandparent Program. She reported that she was representing 21 projects in which 1,482,038 hours a year in volunteer service was rendered helping in schools, in hospitals, and in private homes to keep people from going into nursing homes. She stated they just need their travel reimbursement money. She said a lot of these children will be kept out of correction institutions because they look to the volunteers for guidance. She said they try to teach them right from wrong and respect for authority.

Shirley Bayer, also a member of the foster grandparent program, stated she works with children with learning disabilities in the 6th and 7th grades. She says she has had the wonderful experience of seeing the children she has helped make progress. She drives to the school and indicated that many of the other volunteers need to drive to do their volunteer work. She said they want to be a part of life and give service, but need transportation to do so, and many do not have the funds to give it freely.

Pat Marinoni stated she represented the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. She asked that travel expenses not be cut. She stated they have about 53 women volunteers, all on fixed incomes, and if transportation is cut they will not be able to put in as many hours. She explained what the volunteers do in the hospitals. She stated they have been told by the nurses and doctors that without the volunteers, they would have difficulty functioning.

Bill Chilson, Chief of Police, Clinton, Utah, stated that it has been brought to his attention that Adult Protective Services is going to lose their funding. He stated this presents some unique problems concerning the elderly victims of abuse. He said some teeth have been put into the elderly abuse laws but without adult protective services, law enforcement is limited as to what they can do in these situations. He said if officers go on a child abuse situation they can call child protective services, but who do they call in an adult abuse situation if there is no adult protective services. He asked for reconsideration to put money back into the program for Adult Protective Services.

Vicky Morey, Adult Day Care Provider, distributed a handout on Adult Protective Services reduction impacts and a letter from Sandy B. Yazzie concerning her experience with this service. She said we need to recognize the fact that there are families who need some type of service in Adult Protective Services. She said with the removal of funding the division is left with \$1,200, which means the division cannot provide short term assistance. She said if about \$65,000 could be restored, it would fund the program back to where it was a year ago. She said this is not a reduction but in reality is wiping out the entire program.

Sterling Patten spoke in support of Meals on Wheels. He stated it has been a lifesaver to him and he would not be able to stay in his own home without it.

Ted Bachman talked about his role as a care giver. He said his wife sustained a traumatic brain injury 12 years ago and he has been her sole support and care giver since that time. He said two years ago his wife came to the top of the waiting list for services and was granted day care help. He explained that he was not trained to care for the household and to give the medical care required and was overwhelmed. The services he has received from the county aging service care givers support have been extremely helpful.

Joyce Dalcourt, Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities, distributed a letter and a fact sheet. She stated she wanted to address two hot spots and interim relief that can be provided for people with disabilities. She explained the committee is well aware of the waiting list and the restructuring of procedures and eligibility processes, but the fact remains that 1577 individuals are currently waiting for services. She stated these needs do not diminish in bad

budget years. She asked for support for funding for emergency services, for the Portability Project and support of HB 211.

Sharon Neilson stated she is the mother of three children, two of whom have disabilities. She told of the difficulties the family has had with their 16 year old autistic son. She said he gets very angry and cannot show his emotion appropriately and this has landed him in the juvenile court system. The family has been investigated by DCFS. She said her son has been on the waiting list for three years and she knows the services would be helpful. She said that without funds, these special children end up on the street, in jail or worse. She asked for the committee to please help get funding to get people off the waiting list.

Connie Skoon said she was speaking on behalf of a friend, Janet Barlow, who could not be here today. She said before reading Janet's story, she wanted to say that her own daughter was on the waiting list for eight years. About five years ago her daughter received funding and is now thriving. She expressed what a lifeline it has been for her family. She said when her daughter was funded, she declared never to forget the people on the waiting list and that is why she is here today. She distributed pictures of the Barlow children and told their story. Mosey Barlow is 19, non-verbal and diagnosed as multiple disabled. She has the physical capabilities of an adult but with a mind of a one to three year old. She explained that Janet has reached the point of considering placing Mosey out of the home. She also has a 22 year old son, Izzy, who is not physically able to do anything for himself. She explained that Janet's other children are leaving home so her natural supports are waning when needed the most. She explained the situation is more than a challenge and requested support for extended funding.

Lisa Stamps distributed a letter and said as one who has received respite money through DSPD, she want to express sincere gratitude and offer proof that respite funding works and is worth the investment. She described the condition of her daughter who was deemed "cognitively impaired." She explained that after moving off the waiting list, she started occupational therapy and is learning to cope with her challenges. She stated that one year ago her family was in crisis but today, because of the Division of Services for People with Disabilities and respite funding, the family is thriving.

Dee Dorsett stated that her family feels like a victim of the Division of Child and Family Services and has been hounded to do whatever and whenever the Division demands. She said the social worker sets meetings without regard to her work schedule and makes it impossible for her to attend, and then she is threatened with her children being taken from her. She said she knows this vital department needs funds but they should not use these funds to violate the rights of parents.

Ann Smith, Chairman, State Board of Aging and Adult Services, said she came representing several constituents but her most important are the frail elderly of Utah, and also the less frail elderly. She said she has meet many of these people in the communities and knows them and how they live their lives. She knows they value senior citizen centers, they want to stay in their own homes, and they are proud, industrious, generous, and innovative and do incredible things with limited funds. She said the Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services and the 12 area agencies and the staff at the senior centers do incredible things with limited resources.

Patrick Fleming, Director, Salt Lake County Substance Abuse Services, distributed information concerning methamphetamine treatment initiatives. He stated that last year funding was restored to substance abuse to address the meth problem. A program has been started with these funds for women and their dependent children so families could be kept together during treatment. He stated that there is a lot of information in his handout which could be read at a later time, but he drew attention to the bottom of Page 2 concerning the cost of treatment services verses incarceration.. Treatment is much more cost effective. He stated that the first time meth is tried it brings addiction. It is that powerful. He stated meth is the drug that is driving the crime problem in Utah.

Jodi Gelino stated she is a recovering meth addict and is passionate about the treatment program. She said she has three children and would not want any other mother to go without the opportunity to change her family. She said as she listened to Pat Fleming talk about the financial side, she thought it was more than that. She said it is about generations, because when she is sober, her children will have more choices and be less inclined to be substance

abusers themselves. She said treatment centers where mothers can have their children are very important because the whole family can receive treatment.

Bob Porter distributed and discussed the Utah State Tax Commission FY 2000-2001 sales tax exemption amounts. He said that in his years of management, one of the things that he requested when people came to him with a problem was to also come with a solution. He said he wanted to present a solution. He said there are \$565 million in state tax exemptions. He said that if just 20% of that could be recovered it would help eliminate a big budget deficit. He said everyone in the room pays sales tax on utilities and he sees no reason why businesses should not do the same. He said it is time to look at these exemptions and rather than sacrifice seniors and the disabled, let's sacrifice an airline or an amusement park.

Frank Terezo, a volunteer for the County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, stated that last year there were over 1000 complaints investigated with the help of volunteers. He explained how the volunteers function and stated that they are very passionate about their service and try to change the quality of life of those they serve. He asked that the committee keep them in mind as budgets are made.

Valerie Fritz, President, Utah Alcoholism Foundation, stated she was speaking as a provider and president of a non-profit agency. She explained that the agency received some of the meth money and have opened a women and children's program in Utah County in conjunction with the Utah County Authority. This shelter has room for 16 mothers and 32 children. She said, however, because of no funding, other centers are being closed. She said we need to look at the impact of funding cuts and what is happening to those we serve and keep in mind services that have already been lost and will be lost.

Kerry Steadman, Utah County Commissioner, distributed a packet on Drug Courts in Utah. He stated there are 25 drug courts in Utah, 16 funded from the tobacco settlement account, with close to 1800 people participating at any given time. He stated that when a person is sentenced to the jurisdiction of a drug court they are monitored by the judge. They are seen each week, submitted to random drug tests, and must participate in an individualized treatment plan. He said Drug Courts work due to graduated sanctions and rewards and the length of the program, generally a year or longer. He stated the participation in drug courts for one year costs \$3,500 in comparison to \$22,000 to \$30,000 for incarceration per year. He urged continued funding for drug courts because they have shown that they work.

Steve White, Utah County Commissioner, said he had received notice on January 24, 2003, from Utah Valley Transit, which is the United Way provider for transportation for seniors to the senior centers throughout the county, that the funding has run out and transportation would end on February 28, 2003. He described his experience in visiting a senior center and seeing how important it is for seniors to be able to come to the centers and be served meals and have companionship. He encouraged that some way be found to meet initial needs and help prevent needs that become greater and more costly.

Judy Kasten Bell, Administrator, Utah Domestic Violence Advisory Council, distributed a letter outlining the council's position to funding cuts to domestic violence services. She stated there is a Domestic Violence Coalition in every state in the union. She voiced concern about the proposed cuts in the DCFS budget of \$144,300 directed towards domestic violence workers or domestic violence shelters. She said there are 15 domestic violence shelters which operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. She stated the need for services is constantly increasing. She said the council believes the \$144,300 is way too high, a 17.5% cut. She stated the Governor's budget presented no cuts in domestic violence and asked support for the Governor's proposed budget.

Richard Anderson, Director, Division of Child and Family Services, explained that there are federal funds along with the state funding for domestic violence. He said some goes to shelters, some goes to staffing throughout the state to coordinate domestic violence services, to oversee the shelters, and coordinate the opportunities in the community. He said domestic violence services is a broad spectrum of services, such as shelter, housing, and employment. Mr. Anderson distributed a letter containing the requested information pertaining to caseload averages.

Asha Paren, Director, YWCA's Battered Women's Shelter in Salt Lake City, stated she came to urge passage of the Governor's recommendations that preserve the DCFS fund dedicated to domestic violence services. She said the proposed 17% cut is significant and will have a direct impact on women and children who are in crisis due to domestic violence. She stated that each year almost a third of all female homicide victims are domestic violence related. She said the YWCA last year sheltered 1000 women and children and still had to turn away 214 because the shelter was full. She said shelters operate on shoestring budgets and the demand for services consistently outweigh available resources. She urged that domestic shelter funds be held harmless.

Cindy Christensen, Director, South Valley Sanctuary, said she would echo what the YWCA director has said. She stated that 260 people were turned away from her shelter, which is located in south Salt Lake County. They housed over 700 women, men and children. She said if proposed cuts are made, the Sanctuary would lose 3% of their budget, which translates to 170 nights of service that the shelter cannot provide and could mean several nights of actually closing the shelter which they have never had to do before.

Orla Zabrisky thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak and said she knows how difficult it is to budget for everyone's needs. She indicated she had been placed in a nursing home after contracting pneumonia and observed a lot of things that concerned her. She said physical and occupational therapy is essential to help people be able to help themselves and restore their self respect. It also eases the stress on care givers. She said without these services, patients tend to give up and deteriorate.

Tammy Miner, Disabled Rights Administration Committee, stated she has multiple physical disabilities and without the necessary funding she would be in a nursing home. She said she now is independent and has a job. She said she needs dental, eye glasses and physical therapy to enable her to live in her own home. She stated that cutting the budget will not save money because it will make it more difficult to keep people in their own homes.

Jerry Costly, Project Coordinator, Disabled Rights Administration, talked about a project "Our Homes Not Nursing Homes" which tries to help people get out of nursing homes who have disabilities and don't need to be there. He said he wanted to reemphasize how helpful the intent language would be to allow money in the nursing home to follow individuals if they want to return to the community. It would not cost the state money but would be very helpful to the individuals.

Carl Cook distributed printed information and said he represented people with disabilities and mental retardation. He stated that they need Medicaid funding restored for eye care, glasses, and dental care. He said he would also like to see if UTA could lower prices for senior citizens because \$.60 is just not fair. He said they want to get people out in the community doing service and for activities and it is difficult at that price.

Ann Clyde stated she was a parent of a disabled daughter and she has been her care giver for 25 years. She expressed gratitude for family support in respite care. She said she is a living example that this program works and is necessary. She said she is thankful for the things she was taught to do to better help her daughter. She said she is begging for funding to DSPD to help move other people off the waiting list. She said every person who needs family support and respite care should have it.

Patricia Cook said she would like to say thank you for the service they have received for 36 years but is sad to see vision and dental care taken away. She also said there is a great need for the marginal handicapped for something meaningful to do during the day, similar to senior citizen centers. She said they sometimes slip through the cracks.

Joe Paase, Salt Lake Aging Services, Alternative Services, stated he would like to give a couple of examples of how effective this program is. He said one client is a 97 year old Native American woman who moved to Salt Lake City to live with a daughter and son-in-law. He said she is confined to a wheelchair. Her mind is very sharp but with no ramp at the home, she finds it difficult to go out. The waiver program was able to provide funds for a ramp and day care so her daughter can go back to work and help the family financially. Another waiver has helped a husband care for his wife who suffers from MS and enable her to remain at home instead of a nursing home.

Co-Chair Seitz said the committee all realize the great needs that are out there. He reported that the co-chairs have been asked by the co-chairs of the Executive Appropriations Committee to come up with another list to cut the budget of Health and Human Services by 2%, which means about \$4.6 million in Health and about \$3.9 million in Human Services. He said they were asked to have a priority list put together to be turned in Friday afternoon. This will be discussed on Wednesday after scheduled testimony and Friday most of the meeting will be spent in preparing this list.

Co-Chair Steele said the chairs would take recommendations, both in revenue sources and funding levels, to Executive Appropriations. He said they would emphasize to that committee some great needs that members of that committee may not be aware of. He said we need to identify programs that may need additional support and those that may have a temporary carry over. He asked committee members to make a written list of priorities and get it to the co-chairs as soon as possible. He stated there is not a lot of room to move from the budgets set in December.

Co-Chair Seitz said that time was left for one or two more comments.

Terri Capner stated as a professional parents she was speaking on behalf of the children who come into care. She said some of them come into professional care because respite care or home services were not provided or were not adequate enough to protect the child. She said whatever could be done to protect these children, educate their parents, and help them stay with their families is worthwhile.

Conrad Lloyd explained he is with a group called "Focus: Children Need Both Parents." He stated he wanted to point out the Division of Recovery Services received almost \$16 million of federal money with a suggested list of what these funds could be used for, some of which were fatherhood programs, and education and job programs for non-custodial parents. He stated he felt the Division should start using these federal funds for what they were intended, to keep fathers in the family.

MOTION: Rep. Thompson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Julander absent at the time of the vote.

Co-Chair Steele adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Minutes reported by Norda Shepard, Secretary.

Sen. David H. Steele
Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Jack A. Seitz
Committee Co-Chair